

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY Poland

DATE OF INFORMATION 1949

SUBJECT Transportation - Water

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers

DATE DIST. 24 May 1949

WHERE PUBLISHED **Warsaw**

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE
PUBLISHED 2-22 Apr 1949

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Polish

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SOURCE Polish newspapers as indicated.

LARGER MERCHANT FLEET PROPOSED

POLISH MERCHANT FLEET -- Polska Zbrojna, No 91, 2 Apr 49

The ore and coal carrier Soldak, launched last November, was the first oceangoing vessel built entirely in Poland. The Jednosc Robotnicza and the Brygada Makowskiego followed within a month. Three more vessels of this type are now under construction, one of which, the Wincenty Petrowski is almost completed. The reconstructed motorship Warta will make its first trip 15 May. Simultaneously work is progressing on the steamship Wroclaw, which is being rebuilt from a German derelict.

Work will begin this year on several 4,000-ton motorships to be used on the Levantine route and 660-ton ships for miscellaneous Baltic traffic.

Two new motorships built in England, the Warmia and the Mazury, arrived in Gdynia at the end of 1948. The new refrigerator ship Czech will make its first trip shortly. The steamship Puck, which is to arrive shortly, will be put in service on the scheduled routes.

A larger fleet is an economic necessity; the present tonnage of 200,000 is hardly adequate for Poland's economic requirements of today. The participation of our own fleet in ocean traffic is negligible; not more than 10 percent of the cargo last year was carried under the Polish flag, the remaining 90 percent being carried by foreign owners for which we paid with foreign exchange. A great part of the income derived from export is thus lost. This situation can only be alleviated by an enlarged merchant fleet.

In its initial stages the fleet was assembled haphazardly, with no thought to the future economic requirements of Poland. The fleet must now be organized in such a manner as to serve the needs of our ports. The greatest attention is being given to building a modern fleet which is highly qualified to service scheduled shipping routes.

At the end of the Six-Year Plan the Polish Merchant Fleet will have reached a tonnage of 600,000, for the most part of domestic construction.

A fleet of these proportions will become one of the factors of our economic independence.

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FIRST PASSENGER SHIP BUILT IN POLAND -- Zycie Warszawy, No 107, 20 Apr 49

The MS Olimpia, the first Polish-made passenger ship, made a successful trial run on 14 April 1949.

GDYNIA AND GDANSK FREIGHT TRAFFIC UP -- Rzeczpospolita, No 109, 22 Apr 49

In the first half of April, freight traffic amounted to about 540,000 tons, an increase of 45,000 tons over the corresponding period in March.

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